

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Information Databases

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CURRENT STATUS:

A. RAND California trial database project

Participants in the project will be surveyed to evaluate the extent of participation, their experience with RAND and identification of staffing and technology issues related to use of the database. A survey form is now being tested before a full survey is done.

An arrangement for continuation of a LoC supported license for next fiscal year is in progress. Individual libraries will pay for their participation, the LoC will fund a fiscal agent to bill the libraries and pay a single invoice from RAND. Information from the evaluation survey will be used to identify those interested in licensing the database. Staff will bring a proposal to the Board for approval once license terms have been worked out and a fiscal agent identified. On January 31st staff met with Evan Reader, California State University Chancellor's Office and Joe Nation, RAND Corporation, to discuss terms, conditions and rates for next fiscal year. A list of current participants is attached (Exhibit A).

B. Library of California Periodicals/Serials Database

An interagency agreement is in progress with the California Digital Library (CDL) to extend hosting of the database through this year. Staff met with the serials service bureau vendor, GRC International, Inc., in December to discuss on-going activities and improvements to the maintenance process. CDL staff subsequently met with the vendor to coordinate the delivery of updates to the CDL and to also discuss improvements to the process.

Staff continues to explore options for upgrading the legacy hardware and software used by the serials service bureau for production of the LoC Periodicals/Serials Database. Results of the CDL's transition to a new platform for MELVYL and the LoC P/SD will be an important factor in establishing criteria for a new system.

C. Statewide Information Database Licensing

A full text database licensing pilot project is under consideration as one of the regional activities to be funded. The project would model practices to be taken statewide after successful implementation. Individual libraries would pay costs based on rates negotiated for all eligible libraries in the region. The LoC would pay for the negotiation of the agreement and administrative costs to support and maintain the agreement through its term. Important components of this activity include:

- marketing of the service to eligible libraries
- selection of an appropriate product
- negotiation of terms and conditions acceptable to all libraries
- rates that reduce costs to participating libraries
- effective fiscal agent processes for billing libraries

Statewide database licensing activities will build on this project to broaden participation to all regions and to add additional databases as appropriate. Regional involvement in the selection and evaluation process will be developed in consultation with regional network boards and councils.

Staff has met with Evan Reader, Director, Software and Electronic Information Resources, CSU Chancellor's Office, to investigate collaboration on a statewide process. Continued discussions will proceed in tandem with trial projects.

D. Access to Environmental Information Project (EIP)

In order to first assess the feasibility of further support for the Environmental Information Project, staff sought expressions of interest from California libraries in hosting the Environmental Information Project web site and performing associated tasks. Staff distributed a *Request for Expression of Interest and Qualifications* (Exhibit B) to twenty-five libraries, including the California Digital Library, the current host.

Evaluation requirements were specifically noted on page 3 of the REIQ and included both objective and subjective components. Recipients of the REIQ were also sent copies of all of the evaluation reports produced by the CDL for the project.

No libraries responded to the REIQ by the due date. Staff contacted each library sent a copy of the REIQ to verify receipt. Consequently staff are recommending that no funds be allocated for this program. Funding for the current project will end on March 31, 2000.

RELATED ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:

Consideration of approval of grant to fiscal agent for the cooperative licensing of RAND California for the 2000 – 2001 fiscal year.

Relevant Committee:	Support Services
Staff Liaison:	Ira Bray